

PACT Newsletter

Fall Conference 2014

Letter from the Co-Presidents

Welcome back to school for another year of adventure and discovery! There is something very special about returning to a new beginning each fall, reinvigorated by the slower pace of summer. We hope that our October PACT conference will give you both the opportunity to connect and brainstorm with others who share your passion for teaching, as well as to find inspiration to meet the new joys and challenges this school year undoubtedly will bring.

We have an exciting slate of programs to inspire you on October 24th, which includes many exciting new topics. Please allow yourself plenty of time to peruse all of the offerings, as it may be difficult to choose! In addition to a variety of presentations ranging across all of the developmental domains, we also are very pleased to be able to offer sessions in cultural storytelling, how to create inclusive communities, and how to support our own cooperative communities.

Special thanks to our former program chair, Marcy Mistrett, for putting together so many great opportunities this fall or us all to grow and learn. Marcy has given very generously of her time to PACT this year, even as she was entering a new job in a different field. We were fortunate to have her assistance for the time we did!

Our PACT program chair position is now vacant and waiting for someone like you to seize the opportunity to help bring meaningful, thought-provoking programs to the PACT membership. Interested in the politics that ultimately affect our profession? This is an important time to be aware of political developments involving early childhood education. We also still need legislative contacts for Virginia and the District of Columbia.

We hope to see you there!

PACT Co-Presidents Jennifer DeBernardis & Nancy Renner

Fall Conference Workshop Descriptions

October 24, 2014

Workshop #1: Remodel the Fusses and Fits: Learn the link between brain chemistry and optimal learning. Learn a new theory of guidance which includes strategies for promoting pro social behavior, minimizing aggressive acts and enhancing cooperation and communication. This workshop will be presented by Anne Moriarty, a Conscious Discipline Certified Trainer. **Child Development 1.5 hours**

Workshop #2: Using Cultural Stories to Inspire our Children: This workshop is designed to equip educators with proven techniques for using an award winning methodology to educate and motivate children in their program. Participants will: delve into their own life defining moments; engage in a hands on demonstration of how to implement this technique; develop a list of amazing stories to teach lessons. This workshop will be taught by Ayize Sabater, Educator and CEO of Nsoroma Montessori Services. **Child Development 1.5 hours**

Workshop #3: The Top 5 Preschool Developmental Questions Answered Are flat feet normal? Why is W sitting posture bad? Why is crossing midline really important? What skills are needed in developing handwriting? When is toe walking a concern? These are common questions heard from both educators and parents. Can you answer them? The laborious effort of reviewing current evidence is done, summarized and presented in a simple manner that both new and experienced caregivers can use right away. Bonus material presented on posture in preschoolers: Is it too early to encourage sitting and standing up straight? This workshop is taught by Mary Lynn Hafner, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Preschool Movement Teacher and Acute Care Physical Therapist at Virginia Hospital Center. **Child Development 1.5 hours**

Workshop #4 (*AM Session Only): Enhancing Teacher Child Quality Interaction: Intentional Planning This workshop is tailored to give teachers and administrators different strategies designed to enhance teacher child quality interaction in the classroom. At the end of the workshop participants will be able to identify the three necessary elements that must be present to be considered quality interaction identify the necessary skill sets for different parts of the day to enhance teacher child quality interaction and consequently to improve language and cognitive development in children, to explore and practice intentional planning approach as a way to trigger and guarantee teacher child quality interaction in the classroom throughout the day. This workshop will be presented by Esteban Morales, Lead Bilingual Early Childhood Coach, Centronia, Washington DC **Curriculum 1.5 hours**

Workshop #5: Promoting Kindness and Empathy: Skills that Benefit All of Us This workshop session focuses on the importance of teaching children the skills of kindness and empathy in order to promote a sense of connectedness with others. Looking at current information on HOW to teach these skills will be presented. A variety of strategies based on current research will be shared including resources. This workshop will be presented by Jacky Howell, Training and Technical Specialist, Early Childhood Education. **Curriculum 1.5 hours**

Fall Conference Workshop Descriptions *Continued...*

Workshop #6: Teaching First Experiences: Loving Your Twos Teaching two year olds is for amazing teachers! It's a year of fascinating first experiences and exploration. Participants in this class will share what we know about two year old behaviors and milestones. We will consider how we can enrich our teaching methods and curriculum to better serve and address their learning needs. We will explore effective daily schedules and routines that help 2's transition successfully, as well as recognize patterns, develop literacy skills and begin to understand the concept of time/ gross and fine motor learning opportunities in classrooms spaces; entertaining circle times that teach impulse control and self-regulation while incorporating the use of themes, finger play, sharing, dance, cooperative toys that teach sharing and friendship skills and methods for imbedding social and emotional skills throughout the entire day. Bring stories to share and be ready to act like a two year old! This workshop will be taught by Lisa Schwartz, Lead Teacher for Older 2's and 3's, Silver Spring Day School **Curriculum 1.5 hours**

Workshop #7: In Their Own Words: Honoring Children's Stories Imagine the look of joy and pride on a child's face as a story she has told is read aloud to peers and parents at morning circle. At ALG preschool, children's stories are celebrated through this daily ritual, as well as through child made books in the classroom library, the acting out by children of each other's stories and interactive group storytelling. This workshop will share strategies on how to encourage, document and dramatize children's stories to build community as well as literacy. This workshop will be presented by Melissa Klein, Deborah Kline and Quin McMullen, Teachers, Amazing Life Games Preschool, Washington DC **Curriculum 1.5 hours**

Workshop #8: Everyone Has a Special Need: Social Emotional Tools for Creating Inclusive Preschools This workshop will have participants identifying social emotional goals for preschool age children and how goals differ for children with special needs. Participants will identify and practice tools and techniques for encouraging flexibility and tolerance for individual differences. Participants will identify strategies for promoting friendship development in diverse and inclusive settings. This workshop will be taught by Sally Neuberger, LCSW-C **Special Needs 1.5 hours**

Workshop #9: Between Families and Schools engages participants in rethinking their assumptions about parent engagement and why traditional approaches are often unsuccessful. Creative and effective alternatives are offered as participants develop strategies to create a welcoming school climate and conduct effective parent outreach and recruitment while building meaningful relationships with parents. This workshop will be taught by Karen Parker Thompson. **Community .75 hours plus Professionalism .75 hours – total 1.5 hours**

Workshop #10: Working with Families: Life in the Coop Fast Lane This workshop will cover strategies and techniques for meeting challenges encountered by teachers, directors and staff. Topics include working with Families, Friends, Finances, Food, Fighters and Foes. This workshop will be taught by Lynann Hughes Derrick, PCPI Board Member/Museum Educator/ Former Co-Op Director **Community .75 hours plus Professionalism .75 hours – total 1.5 hours**

To sign up for one of these stimulating workshops, follow the instructions below.

Pick Your Workshops and Sign Up Below

This registration form and \$40.00 registration fee (payable to PACT) must be received by Friday, October 17. Please return this form by email to Annette.fitzpatrick@verizon.net or regular mail to Annette Fitzpatrick, 7203 46TH Street, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. . If you have any questions, please call Annette at 301.986.5161.

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Director's name _____

School Name _____ School Phone _____

How many years have you been involved with Early Childhood Education?

___Rookie (0-3 yrs) ___Veteran (4-10 yrs) ___ Seasoned Veteran (10+ yrs)

Interested in serving on the PACT Board? Yes! ___ Maybe need more info! ___

Workshop Choices: Indicate the NUMBER of the workshop below*:

1st session #___ 2nd session #___ Alternates #_____

*Each workshop will be capped at 35 people. Registrations received after the due date may be assigned their alternate choice. Members may register via email (include name, phone #, email address, school, workshop choices) or attach a scanned registration form, however priority in workshop choices will be given to members whose fees have been received.

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